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## INFORMATION REPORT

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CLASSIFICATION: Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT: Coking Plants in Czechoslovakia; Miscellaneous Information on United Steelworks and the Vítkovice Ironworks

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1. Before World War II all the coke manufacturing plants in Czechoslovakia were concentrated in the Moravská Ostrava area. During the war it was decided that coke ovens should be established at the Konev plant (formerly the Prager Eisengeellschaft) in order to overcome the difficulties in transporting the coke from Ostrava to Kladno. It was discovered that North Bohemian coal was unsuitable for coking, that coal must be transported to the Kladno ovens from the Ostrava region. The Kladno coke ovens were built by Krupp and are the largest in Czechoslovakia and the most modern in Central Europe. Except for the gas plants, which produce low-grade coke as a by-product, the only other coking plants in Czechoslovakia are at the Skoda Steelworks in Plzen, at Trinec and two at Vítkovice. It is believed that a new coking plant of the Konev type is being built at the Vítkovice plant in Kunice to replace one of the older Vítkovice ovens.
2. The Poldi Steelworks in Kladno, part of the United Steelworks, uses the raw iron produced by the Konev Foundries in Kladno and the Vítkovice Ironworks to produce special high-grade steels. The Konev Steelworks produces armor plate. The only other armor plate producing plant in Czechoslovakia is the Vítkovice Ironworks.
3. There are eight blast furnaces at the Vítkovice Ironworks, four rather old furnaces known as Zofinska Hut, which form a distinct complex north of the rest of the Vítkovice plant, and four newer ones known as U reditelstvi, in the same area as the administrative buildings. The Manager of the Vítkovice Ironworks is Dr. Ing. Steiner, who replaced Dr. Ing. Bechny. Steiner was formerly manager of the Trinec plant of Banska a Huti National Corporation. The manager of the Engineering Works, which form part of the Vítkovice complex, is Ing. Mil Bednar, a Communist. His deputy is Ing. Cerry, a Communist.

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